

Week Ahead

Legislative Focus: Inauguration of the 45th President of the United States
The House is in recess this week, however the Senate has a busy week ahead of the inauguration of President-Elect Donald Trump on Friday. The Senate has a full week of confirmation hearings, including hearings for Betsy DeVos, Steven Mnuchin, Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT), Rep. Tom Price (R-GA), former Governor Rick Perry (R-TX), Governor Nikki Haley (R-SC), Wilbur Ross, and Scott Pruitt.

Senate Floor: The Senate convenes at 3 p.m. and is expected to vote on passage of H.R. 72, a bill that would authorize the Government Accountability Office to obtain federal agency records.

House Floor: The House is in recess until Friday for the inauguration of President-Elect Donald Trump as the 45th President of the United States.

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nomination of Wilbur Ross to be Commerce Secretary in the Trump Administration. Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 10 a.m.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nomination of former **Governor Rick Perry** (R-TX) to be Energy Secretary in the Trump administration. Thursday, Jan. 19 at 10 a.m.
- Full committee hearing on the nomination of Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-GA) to be Interior Secretary in the Trump Administration. Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 2:15 p.m.

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nomination of Scott Pruitt to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency in the Trump Administration. Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 10 a.m.

Senate Finance Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nomination of Steven Mnuchin to be Treasury Secretary in the Trump administration. Thursday, Jan. 19 at 10 a.m.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nomination of **Governor Nikki Haley** (R-SC) to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations in the Trump Administration. Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 10 a.m.

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

- Full committee hearing on the nomination of Betsy DeVos to be Education Secretary in the Trump Administration. Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 5 p.m.
- Full committee hearing on the nomination of Rep. Tom Price (R-GA)., to be Health and Human Services Secretary in the Trump Administration. Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 10 a.m.

Michigan Newsmakers

Rep. Jack Bergman (MI-01)

UP Matters—January 11th, 2017

Bergman has been Selected to Serve on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Rep. Jack Bergman's (MI-1) office announced today that he has been selected to serve on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Rep. Bill Huizenga (MI-02)

MLive—January 10th, 2017

U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga Will Co-chair Great Lakes Task Force

A West Michigan congressman will serve as one of four co-chairs of a congressional task force that focuses on policies and programs surrounding the natural resource of the Great Lakes.

Rep. John Moolenaar (MI-04)

Midland Daily News—January 14th, 2017

Moolenaar Named to Appropriations Subcommittees

Congressman John Moolenaar, R-Midland, has been named to three subcommittees of the House Appropriations Committee.

Rep. Fred Upton (MI-06)

Herald Palladium—January 13th, 2017

Upton Reintroduces Legislation for Parlak

About a year ago, U.S. Rep. Fred Upton sat beside Ibrahim Parlak at a table in Café Gulistan and proclaimed he would introduce legislation to help keep the Turkey native in the United States.

Rep. Tim Walberg (MI-07)

Monroe News—January 16th, 2017

Walberg Selected as Chairman of Subcommittee

House Education and Workforce Committee Chairwoman Virginia Foxx recently announced the selection of Congressman Tim Walberg (MI-07) to serve as chairman of subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions for the 115th Congress.

Rep. Debbie Dingell (MI-12)
Detroit Free Press—January 12th, 2017
Legislators Want More Health Data from VA Hospitals
U.S. Reps. Debbie Dingell and Tim Walberg of Michigan have reintroduced legislation which requires Veterans Affairs hospitals to provide reports on infection rates, surgical cancellations and other quality of care matters.

Latest Developments

House Votes on Obamacare Repeal Budget

Last week the House voted on S.Con.Res. 3, the budget resolution with instructions to repeal Obamacare through the congressional procedure called reconciliation. Reconciliation allows the House and Senate to pass legislation regarding fiscal policy with only a simple majority that cannot be filibustered. The resolution passed 227-198, with votes mainly along party lines. It largely passed the Senate on party lines earlier in the same week. The reconciliation instructions in the budget instruct the House Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce committees and the Senate Finance and Health, Education, Labor & Pensions committees to each produce legislation within their jurisdiction that reduces the deficit by at least $1 billion over the next ten years and submit their proposals by Jan. 27th.

US and EU Finalize Insurance Covered Agreement

The Department of the Treasury and United States Trade Representative (USTR) last week submitted a covered agreement negotiated with the European Union addressing insurance supervision and regulation to the House Committees on Financial Services and House Ways and Means Committee, as well as the Senate Banking and Finance Committees. The agreement covers three areas of oversight: reinsurance, group supervision, and the exchange of insurance information between regulators.

Most notably, the agreement would eliminate the collateral and local presence requirements for EU and U.S. reinsurers, meaning EU-based reinsurers will have to hold less capital when operating in the U.S. The agreement was negotiated with minimal state engagement and represents a potentially significant preemption of state insurance measures. The states will have 5 years to adopt reinsurance reforms in compliance with the agreement. Historically, state insurance regulators have required foreign reinsurers to hold 100% collateral within the U.S. for the risks assumed from U.S. insurers. Such requirements helped ensure that reinsurers possess the necessary capital to pay claims, particularly in the wake of natural disasters. However, more recently, 32 states have implemented a Credit for Reinsurance Model Law developed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). This new legislation reduced these consumer protection collateral requirements and made them more consistent to assist foreign operation in the reinsurance market.

Under the terms of Title V of the Dodd-Frank Act, the agreement will be effective in 90 calendar days, pending Congressional review. The NGA Economic Development & Commerce Committee is working to schedule a briefing with NAIC soon. For more information, see a fact sheet from the Treasury here, an issue brief from NAIC here, as well as NAIC's initial statement on the agreement.

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